

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (New): A process for the production of a treated noble metal-containing catalyst comprising:

- (a) providing (i) titanium oxide, (ii) a silicon support, (iii) gold and/or silver, and, (iv) optionally, an oxide promoter to form a noble metal-containing catalyst having at least one surface; and
- (b) treating the surface of the noble metal-containing catalyst with a material having alkylsilicon, arylsilicon, alkyl groups containing fluorine or aryl groups containing fluorine to form a treated noble metal-containing catalyst.

Claim 14 (New): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the surface of the noble metal-containing catalyst is treated with organosilicon and/or organic compounds containing fluorine.

Claim 15 (New): The process according to Claim 14 wherein the surface of the noble metal-containing catalyst is treated with siloxanes, silazanes, disilanes and/or chlorosilanes or mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the noble metal-containing catalyst is treated with liquid water, an aqueous saturated ammonium chloride solution and/or ammonium nitrate solution, or ion exchange resin with polyvalent cations.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the noble metal-containing catalyst is treated with steam at 200-450°C for 2-5 hours.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to Claim 16, wherein excess water and, optionally, salt, are removed from the noble metal-containing catalyst.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the treated noble metal-containing catalyst is prepared by a water glass process.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 19, wherein a solvent is used in the water glass process.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to Claim 20, wherein the solvent in the water glass process is water and an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the treated noble metal-containing catalyst is prepared by a sol-gel process.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein a solvent is used in the sol-gel process.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to Claim 23, wherein the solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, acetone or sulfolane.

Claim 25 (New): A process for the oxidation of hydrocarbons in the presence of molecular oxygen and a reducing agent wherein the oxidation of hydrocarbons is conducted in the presence of the treated noble metal-containing catalyst made according to the process of Claim 13.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to Claim 25, wherein the hydrocarbon is propene.

Claim 27 (New): The process according to Claim 26, where the propene is oxidized to propene oxide.